

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 USIE-00

RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 OIC-04 STR-08 CEA-02

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AMCONSUL CALI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 2644

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, CO, XM, CU

SUBJECT: OASGA: COLOMBIA POSTION ON CUBA AND REORGANIZATION

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: BOGOTA 2503 AND 1581

1. BEGNIN SUMMARY: FONMIN BELIEVES THAT OASGA COMPETENT TO DISCUSS CUBA QUESTION BUT NOT TO DISMISS SANCTIONS. HE WOULD, HOWEVER, GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO GA RESOLUTION STATING THAT EACH NATION IS FREE TO DECIDE ITS OWN POLICY TOWARDS CUBA. REGARDING PROBLEM OF REORGANIZING OAS, VAZQUEZ WILL URGE A NEW AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U. S. ON THE ONE HAND AND LATIN AMERICA ON THE OTHER IN REGARD TO MATTERS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. I CALLED ON FONMIN APRIL 2 TO DISCUSS OAS MATTERS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON. WE COVERED TWO ITEMS IN DETAIL
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-- CUBA AND THE REORGANIZATION OF THE OAS.

3. CUBA: VAZQUEZ STATED HIS OPINION THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS NO JURISDICTION ON SANCTIONS AND THAT ONLY A MEETING OF CONSULTATION UNDER THE RIO TREATY MAY PROPERLY ADDRESS THIS QUESTION. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE CUBA QUESTION WITH THE PRES AND THAT BOTH WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD DISCUSS CUBA, AS A POLICY QUESTION. I PERSISTED AND POINTED OUT THAT A RESOLUTION MIGHT BE PRESENTED THAT WOULD NOT ADDRESS THE SANCTIONS AS SUCH BUT WOULD SAY THAT THE SENSE OF THE GA IS THAT RELATIONS WITH CUBA SHOULD BE A MATTER FOR EACH NATION TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF. VAZQUEZ RESPONDED THAT " HE WOULD GIVE SUCH A RESOLUTION VERY. VERY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION."

4. WE CONTINUED THE DISCUSSION ON CUBA AND I REMINDED HIM THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD ME IN ANOTHER CONTEXT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD CHANGED THE ATMOSPHERE TOWARDS COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BY DRAWING CLOSER TO THE USSR AND CHINA. I EMPHASIZED THAT THIS CONSIDERATION DOES NOT APPLY IN THE CASE OF CUBA BECAUSE THE CUBANS HAD NOT DESISTED FROM THE ACTIONS FOR WHICH THE OAS HAD CENSORED THEM. AS ILLUSTRATIONS I CITED THE FOLLOWING: (A) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUBMARINE BASE IN 1970; (B) USSR SUPPORT FOR CUBA IN THE AMOUNT OF HALF A BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR; (C) A SUBVERSIVE BASE ESTABLISHED IN SANTIAGO; (D) IN COLOMBIA 25 ATTACKS BY THE ELN IN 1972; (E) THE PRESENT PROSPERITY OF COLOMBIA WAS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE SPREAD OF SUBVERSION BUT SHOULD THIS SITUATION CHANGE DID NOT VAZQUEZ BELIEVE THAT THE POCKETS OF SUBVERSION WOULD NOT TURN INTO CENTERS OF VIOLENCE WITH THE AID OF CUBA? IN SHORT I EMPHASIZED CUBA HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS NOT INTERESTED IN GIVING UP SUPPORT OF SUBVERSION OR IN REJOINING THE OAS.

5. VAZQUEZ STATED THAT COLOMBIA DEFINITELY WOULD NOT RE- ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN THE OASGA HE WOULD INSIST ON PROPER JURIDICAL PROCEDURE AND OPPOSE ANY RESOLUTION THAT BYPASSED THE PROPER FORM, THE MEETING OF CONSULTATION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE THINGS MORE DIFFICULT BY GRANTING LARGE CREDITS TO THE USSR FOR GRAINS AND CONCLUDING A HIJACKING AGREEMENT WITH CUBA. HE ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE PROPER FOR COLOMBIA TO CONCLUDE A HIJACKING AGREEMENT WITH CUBA
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AND SAID HE WOULD RAISE THIS TOPIC IN THE GA DISCUSSION.

6. I RESPONDED THAT OUR CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA AND THE USSR HAD COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF THOSE NATIONS' INITIATIVES WHICH DID NOT APPLY IN THE CASE OF CUBA.

7. REORGANIZATION OF THE OAS: VAZQUEZ STATED THAT IN HIS SPEECH TO THE GA HE WILL ASSERT THAT THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS HAS DONE ITS JOB AND THAT WE SHOULD NOW ENTER INTO A NEW AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES ON THE ONE HAND AND LATIN AMERICA ON THE OTHER. HE MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT THE RIO TREATY, WHICH IS STILL THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF THE HEMISPHERE, BUT RATHER ABOUT ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HE SAID THAT THE VIEWS OF FORMER PRES ALBERTO LLERAS PUBLISHED IN THE VISION EDITION OF FEB 24 CARRY GREAT WEIGHT WITH THE GOC.

8. I ASKED VAZQUEZ IF HE BELIEVED THAT NATIONS WITH SUCH DIVERSE INTERESTS AS BRAZIL, CHILE AND COLOMBIA COULD ARRIVE AT A COMMON POSITION ON THEIR VITAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS PRIOR TO NEGOTIATING WITH THE UNITED STATES. VAZQUEZ RESPONDED THAT HE HAD NOT REALLY THOUGHT THAT PART THROUGH BUT WOULD PROPOSE IT TO OPEN THE DOOR TO DISCUSSION.

9. COMMENT: VAZQUEZ IS OBVIOUSLY CONVINCED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES HAS OCCURRED WHICH REQUIRE AT LEAST THE AIRING OF THE CUBAN ISSUE AS A MAJOR POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR THE OASGA. IN SPITE OF MY URGING HE REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY A REVOLUTIONARY CUBA. ON OAS REORGANIZATION VAZQUEZ IS FASCINATED WITH THE IDEA OF UNITING LATIN AMERICAN POWER AGAINST THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONS ON TRADE AND ASSISTANCE.
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